

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

### **LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1 - 16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended)      A method for filtering a dirt and debris laden air flow, the method comprising:

providing a hand-held vacuum with a housing, an impeller, ~~an inlet~~, a container and a ~~primary~~ filter, the housing including a handle that permits a user to employ the hand-held vacuum for vacuuming with a single hand, the impeller being disposed within the housing, the container having an inlet being configured to receive port for receiving the dirt and debris laden air flow therethrough, the container being attached to the housing and configured to retain dirt and debris removed from the dirt and debris laden air flow and the ~~primary~~ filter being disposed between the impeller and the inlet port;

rotating the impeller to generate the dirt and debris laden air flow; and

swirling the dirt and debris laden air flow about an interior of the container.

18. (Original)      The method of Claim 17, further comprising removing the container from the housing to empty the container.

19. (Currently Amended)      The method of Claim 18, wherein the container and the inlet port are fixedly coupled to one another.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 17, further comprising pivoting the inlet port relative to the housing to gain access to the container.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 20, further comprising rotating the housing with the single hand grasping the handle to overturn the vacuum and empty the container.

22 - 31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) A hand-held portable vacuum comprising:  
a housing having a handle;  
a dirt cup having an inlet port and defining a container for storage of dirt and debris therein, the dirt cup being removably attached to the housing;  
an impeller at least partially disposed in the housing, the impeller being operable for generating an air flow that flows through the inlet port;  
a filter disposed between the impeller and the inlet port; and  
means for swirling the air flow about an interior of the dirt cup.

33. (Currently Amended) The hand-held vacuum of Claim 32, wherein the swirling means includes a flow deflector associated with the inlet port of the dirt cup.

34. (Original) The hand-held vacuum of Claim 33, wherein the flow deflector is an elbow.

35. (Currently Amended) The hand-held vacuum of Claim 32, wherein the swirling means includes a plurality of vanes disposed in an axially spaced relation to the inlet port.

36. (Currently Amended) The hand-held vacuum of Claim 35, wherein the vanes are associated with a prefilter, the vanes being disposed between the inlet port and the filter.

37. (Currently Amended) A hand-held portable vacuum comprising:  
a housing having a handle;  
a dirt cup having an inlet port and defining a container for storage of dirt and debris therein, the dirt cup being removably attached to the housing;  
an impeller at least partially disposed in the housing, the impeller being operable for generating an air flow that flows through the inlet port;  
a filter disposed between the impeller and the inlet port; and  
a flow deflector associated with the inlet of the dirt cup, the flow deflector being configured to direct the air flow toward an interior surface of the dirt cup in a manner that causes dirt and debris entrained in the air flow to swirl about the interior surface of the dirt cup.

38. (Currently Amended) The hand-held vacuum of Claim 37, wherein the flow deflector is an elbow that is coupled to the inlet port.

39. (New) The hand-held vacuum of Claim 37, wherein the flow deflector is attached to a rear end of the inlet port.

40. (New) The hand-held vacuum of Claim 39, wherein the flow deflector has an outlet and wherein the outlet faces a side of the dirt cup and rearwardly toward the housing.

41. (New) The hand-held vacuum of Claim 37, wherein the dirt cup has a substantially smooth interior surface.

42. (New) The hand-held vacuum of Claim 32, wherein the dirt cup has a substantially smooth interior surface.

43. (New) The hand-held vacuum of Claim 33, wherein the flow deflector alters the course of the air flow exiting the inlet port.

44. (New) The hand-held vacuum of Claim 34, wherein the elbow is coupled to a rear end of the inlet port.

45 (New) The hand-held vacuum of Claim 44, wherein the elbow includes an attachment portion and wherein one of the attachment portion and the inlet port is received into the other one of the attachment portion and the inlet port.

46. (New) The hand-held vacuum of Claim 45, wherein the attachment portion and the inlet port are frictionally engaged to one another.

47. (New) The hand-held vacuum of Claim 44, wherein the elbow is removably coupled to the inlet port.

48. (New) The hand-held vacuum of Claim 34, wherein the elbow has outlet that is configured to cause the air flow to flow in a direction, the direction extending laterally to a side of the dirt cup and rearwardly toward the housing.

49. (New) A method for filtering a dirt and debris laden air flow, the method comprising:

providing a hand-held vacuum with a housing, an impeller, a dirt cup and a filter, the housing including a forward portion, a rearward portion, a body portion and a handle that extends between the forward portion and the rearward portion, the handle being offset from the body portion to define a handle aperture therebetween, the impeller being disposed within the housing, the dirt cup being removably coupled to the housing and defining a container with an inlet port to receive the dirt and debris laden air flow therethrough, the container being configured to retain dirt and debris removed from the dirt and debris laden air flow and the filter being disposed between the impeller and the inlet port;

rotating the impeller to generate the dirt and debris laden air flow; and

directing the dirt and debris laden air flow in a direction toward the housing and to a side of an outlet of the inlet port.

50. (New) The method of Claim 49, wherein the dirt and debris laden air flow impinges on an interior surface of the dirt cup.

51. (New) A method for filtering a dirt and debris laden air flow, the method comprising:

providing a hand-held vacuum with a housing, an impeller, a dirt cup and a filter, the housing including a forward portion, a rearward portion, a body portion and a handle that extends between the forward portion and the rearward portion, the handle being offset from the body portion to define a handle aperture therebetween, the impeller being disposed within the housing, the dirt cup being removably coupled to the housing and defining a container with an inlet port to receive the dirt and debris laden air flow therethrough, the container being configured to retain dirt and debris removed from the dirt and debris laden air flow and the filter being disposed between the impeller and the inlet port;

rotating the impeller to generate the dirt and debris laden air flow; and

directing the dirt and debris laden air flow in a direction that is generally transverse to the filter so that the filter is not directly in-line with air exiting the inlet port.